

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 6979**

LCO No. 5532

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY DECLINING  
STUDENT ENROLLMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2       to study declining student enrollment in school districts. The task force  
3       shall examine the causes and consequences of declining student  
4       enrollment in school districts and the state, including, but not limited  
5       to, its effect on state and local education budgets.

6       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

7       (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
8       one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association  
9       of Boards of Education and one of whom shall be a professor at a  
10      public institution of higher education in the state with expertise in real  
11      estate and urban economic studies;

12      (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
13      of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
14      Schools and one of whom shall be a certified teacher in a public school;

15      (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
16      Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut

17 Association of Public School Superintendents;

18 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
19 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business  
20 Officials;

21 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
22 Representatives, who shall be a person with expertise in economics;

23 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
24 a person with expertise in workforce development;

25 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;  
26 and

27 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a  
28 person with expertise in demography.

29 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
30 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
31 of the General Assembly.

32 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
33 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
34 filled by the appointing authority.

35 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
36 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
37 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
38 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
39 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

40 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
41 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
42 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

43 (g) Not later than January 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a  
44 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing

45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
46 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
47 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
48 that it submits such report or January 1, 2016, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section